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WEDDING, PARTY and OPERA SHOES.
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of Cambridge but occasions no bilster, because of the 250 conductors or evaporators, which threw of the vasor, the scalding
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If The Tribune had a right to call Donglas, Mason and Case "teable," "insolert," and "blackguard," we had a right to discout from the good raste of Senator Summer in painting one of his associate as a cleak.

[Express. Certainly—who doubts it? But you had no right

to represent THE TRIBUNE as applying to this subse retort commendation which it expressly confined to the prepared speech, while it indicated its re that Mr. S. had been goaded into resenting Douglas, scurnity You understand this perfectly-why you porsist in prevarioating about and perverting it

New York Daily Tribune

FRIDAY, MAY 23, 1856.

TO CORRESPONDENTS. TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice can be taken of anonymous Communications. Whatever is intended for insertion must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer—not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of his good faith.

We cannot undertake to return rejected Communications.

Summer's Speech.

DOINGS IN CONGRESS.

SENATE, May 22.—The Joint resolutions allowing Dr. Kane and his officers to accept tokens of acknowledgment from the British Government were adopted. In consequence of the announcement of the death of Mr. Miller of Missouri, member of the House, the Senate adjourned, after a culogy upon the deceased by Mr. Gever.

House, May 22 .- The death of Mr. Miller, of souri, was announced, and after remarks by Mr. Humphrey, the customary resolutions were passed, and the House adjourned.

The Democratic State Convention of Michigan has instructed the delegates from that State to go for Mr. Buchanan as their candidate for President.

The Republican State Convention of Rhode Island, met yesterday, and selected a strong delegation to the Philadelphia Convention. Gov. Hoppin heads the list.

The entire Canadian Ministry have resigned, and the Governor has sent to consult Sir Allan Mac-Nab on the formation of a new Cabinet.

By the news from Washington it will be seen that Senator Sumner has been savagely and brutally assaulted, while sitting in his scat in the Senate chamber, by the Hon. Mr. Brooks of South Carolina, the reason assigned therefor being the Senator's remarks on Mr. Butler of South Carolina, who is uncle to the man who made the attack. The particulars show that Mr. Sumner was struck unawares over the head by a loaded cane and stunned, and then the ruffianly attack was continued with many blows, the Hon. Mr. Keit: of South Carolina keeping any of those around, who might be so disposed, from attempting a rescue. No meaner exhibition of Southern cowardice-generally miscalled Southern chivalry-was ever witnessed. It is not in the least a cause for wonder that a member of the national House of Representatives, assisted by another as a fender-off, should attack a member of the national Senate, because, in the course of a constitutional argument, the last had uttered words which the first chose to consider distasteful. The reasons for the absence of collision between North and South-collision of sentiment and person-which existed a few years back, have ceased; and as the South has taken the oligarchic ground that Slavery ought to exist, irrespective of color-that there must be a governing class and a class governedthat Democracy is a delusion and a lie-we must expect that Northern men in Washington, whether members or not, will be assaulted, wounded or killed, as the case may be, so long as the North will bear it. The acts of violence during this session-including one murder-are simply overtures to the drama of which the persecution murders, rebberies and war upon the Free-State men in Kansas, constitute the first act. We are either to have Liberty or Slavery. Failing to silence the North by threats, notwithstanding the doughfaced creatures who so long misrepresented the spirit of the Republic and of the age, the South now resorts to actual violence. It is reduced to a question whether there is to be any more liberty of speech south of Mason and Dixon's line, even in the ten niles square of the District of Columbia. South of that, liberty has long since departed; but whether the common ground where the national representatives meet is to be turned into a slave plantation where Northern members act under the lash, the bowie-kuise and the pistol, is a question to be settled. That Congress will take any action in view of this new event, we shall not be rash enough to surmise; but if the Northern people are not generally the poltroons they are taken for by the hostile slavebreeders and slavedrivers of the South, they will be heard from. As a beginning, they should express their sentiments upon this brutal and dastardly outrage in their popular assemblies. The Pulpit should not be silent.

If, indeed, we go on quietly to submit to such outrages, we deserve to have our noses flattened, our skins blacked, and to be placed at work under task-masters; for we have lost the noblest attributes of freemen, and are virtually slaves.

We give to-day additional letters from Kansas, in which the fearful condition of things in that Territory is painfully apparent. The whole plot by which it is expected to eliminate the Free-Soil element from the Territory is now evident. The same means of force and violence originally employed to fix upon Kansas a bogus Legislature, in the election of which the resident inhabitants were allowed no participation, are now directed against the doomed City of Lawrence, to reduce it to implicit submission to this usurped authority. The detestable attempt, which failed last Winter, seems now on the point of more successful accomplishment. All the more active and conspicuous of the Free State leaders are hunted down like so many welves-pursued, seized and detained-now by volunteer mobs, which do not pretend to any authority except their own will and pleasure, and now by similar mobs assembled as posses to sheriffs and marshals. Gov. Robinson, seized without the least lawful warrant for it by a mob at Lexington, Missouri, has, it is said, been sent for by Gov. Shappen to be carried back to Lecompton to answer to an indictment for high treason. We consider him in danger of assassination at any moment by the villains into whose hands he has fallen. Gov. Reeder had fled for his life. At the last accounts, he had not been taken, and we trust he will succeed in effecting his escape and in reappearing at Washington, there to make known to the House of Representatives what respect has been paid to their safe-conduct, under which he must be considered to have revisited the Territory to prosecute his claim to a seat in the House. Lawrence is surrounded, as it was last winter, by bands of desperadoes who stop travelers, examine wagons, plunder their contents, and arrest whom they please. Nor is this confited to the vicinity of Lawrence. The same thing is going on throughout the Territory. Editors of Freetate papers are especial objects of search and scizure. Mr. Brown, the editor of the Lawrence

Herald of Freedom, who had just come up the Missonri river and was stopping in Kansas City, was seized at his hotel and carried off a prisoner to Westport. There is no charge against him of resisting any bogus sheriff, or of refusing to help serve any writ, or of committing high treason by accepting office under the Free-State constitution. His offence is having denied the legal existence of Slavery in Kansas, which by one of the enactments of the hooms legislature is made a high crime. Mr. Miller, editor of The Free State, a Carolinian by birth, who had been sent from Lawrence to communicate with the Marshal, and who was returning back with a safe-conduct from the Marshal himself. has been seized in spite of that safe-conduct by the leader of a band of ruffians, who said he was a Carolinian, and who carried Miller off, probably to murder him, or at least to inflict upon him great personal indignity.

The people of Lawrence, it will be seen, have done everything that could be expected of them, even by the most violent assertors of the authority of the Bogus Legislature. They have in public meeting emphatically denied the truth of the charge against them of having resisted, or of intending to resist, the service of process in the hands of the Marshal, which alleged resistance has been made the pretense of this new armed foray upon them. They have declared their readiness to submit to the service of all process in the Marshal's hands, and to furnish a posse if required to aid in that service. They have sent a deputation to the Marshel to learn from him what he wants of the pecple of Lawrence, to which they get no answer except vague denunciations leveled against them as rebels and traitors. :

It is plain enough what the Marshal wants. If his object had been the service of writs, he might have commanded the aid of the United States troops for that purpose. The present posse of two or three thousand armed men, by which Lawrence is surrounded, bas not been called out to serve writs. Their object is, by plunder, personal violence and outrage of all sorts, to provoke a fight which may be made a pretext for an attack upon the city, setting it on fire, the murder of a part of the inhabitants, and the expulsion of the rest from the Territory. If, through the resolute patience of the Free-State men to submit to all sorts of outreges and indignities rather than strike the first blow, they should not succeed in this, then their object is to compel the Free-State men to an absolute submission, to disarm them, to arrest every active person among them on some pretext or another, and in this way to compel the Free-State men to take their choice between subsiding into perfect silence and submission, and leaving the whole control of the political affairs of the Territory in the hands of the Pro-Slavery party, or else 'quitting in disgust a Territory where they are no longer allowed any of the privileges of Freemen, not even that of having arms to defend themselves against assassination and robbery.

It would no doubt be the part of wisdom for the men of Lawrence to avoid an armed collision at any price. It were better to make an absolute surrender of arms and every thing else, than, in attempting to defend themselves, to do any thing which might be perverted by the authorities at Washington into a pretense for representing and treating them as insurgents against the authority of the United States. But if a conflict should take place and blood should flow, which is but too probable, what a fearful responsibility will rest on the beads of Mr. Pierce and his Cabinet! One word to Colonel Summer to interpose himself between the combatants would effectually prevent the disasters that threaten. But Colonel Sumner's hands are, as we feared, tied up by orders from Washington not to interfere except by direction of Shannon, which direction Shannon refuses to give.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (New School), now in session in this city, was employed yesterday and the day before in the discussion of the Slavery question, which fills, at this moment, a not less conspicuous place in our ecclesiastical than it does in our political debates. The debate is unfinished, and is to be resumed today. The matter comes up in the reports of a committee appointed by the last Assembly to report to the present one, "on the constitutional power of the Assembly over the subject of slave-" holding." Four members of the Committee agree in a majority report. Dr. Boyd of Virginia offers a dissenting report, signed by himself. These reports involve a good deal of technical reasoning as to the relative powers of the General Assembly, and of the subordinate ecclesiastical jurisdictions of which it is the head; but, after all, the difference in the two reports substantially turns, if not on the essential character of slaveholding, at least upon its ordinary tendency and operation, while the debate as to what should be done with the two reports turns, it may be said, entirely upon that point.

The majority report, which is signed by Albert Barnes, Asa D. Smith, Wm. Jessup and Augustus P. Hascall, excuses itself from any discussion of the moral character of slaveholding, or of the question whether slaveholding is in any case a disciplinable offense. These questions are considered as settled by the resolution, which after much discussion, the Assembly came to at Detroit in 1850.

That the holding our fellow men in the condition of Slavery, except in those cases where it is unavoidable by the laws of the State, the obligations of guardianship, or thede mands of humanity, is an offense in the proper import of that term, as used in the Book of D scipline, chapter 1, section 3, and should be regarded and treated in the same manner as other offenses." This proposition was laid down on that occasion, not indeed, as law, but merely as doctrine; but having been expressly or virtually reaffirmed by every succeeding Assembly. The Committee regard it as the settled view of the Church. The question for the Committee is, what power has the General Assembly in the premises ! The functions of that body they regard as of two kinds-advisory and authoritative. As to the first, the Form of Government gives the Assembly the power, to be exercised at its own discretion, "of reproving, warning, or hearing testimony against error in doctrine or incomorality in any church, presbytery or synod," and of "recommending reformation of manners through all churches under their care." The authoritative function is much more limited. The discipline of the church can only be administered according to certain fixed forms. In general, and always in respect to individuals, the power of the Assembly in this respect is not an originating, but merely an appellant authority. Proceedings in discipline must commence in the lower jurisdictions, it being the function of the General Assembly to serve as a court of appeal. If, however, any syned should appear from its own seconds not to have fulfilled its duty in this respect, either by incorrectly deciding cases or refusing them a hearing, or in neglecting to cite before it it ferier indicatories themselves guilty of neglect of duty-in such cases apparent on the record, the Assembly may censure the delinquent Synod and require it "to review and correct its proceedings." Or even if the record show nothing wrong, yet it common fame charge that through the neglect of any Synod "beretical opinions or corrupt practices" are "allowed to gain ground," and that offenders of a very gross character are suffered " to escape," then the Assembly has power to cite before it the Synod thus charged, to show what it has done or failed to do, after which the whole matter is again to be referred to the delinquent Synod, with " a direction to take it up and dispose of it in a constitutional manner."

It is evident that under this system the effectual administration of the discipline of the Church must depend, in a great extent, on the fidelity of the inferior jurisdictions, the Sessions, and the Presbytery. The Assembly has no power to cite those bodies directly before it. It can only reach them indirectly through the Synod, in case it be made to appear that the Synod has connived with them in neglect of duty; and after all, the discipline must finally be administered, if at all, through the medium of these same delinquent judicatories, brought to a sense of duty by the animadversions of the As sembly. Here is evidently much room for the escape of delinquents, and the continuance in the Church of unworthy members; but the Committee think it better to submit to this evil than to attempt to draw tighter the reigns of ecclesiastical authority.

It appears from the debate that, at the risk of some ambiguity, the report of the majority, in the hope of securing a unanimous consent, had been subjected to considerable "trimming," so as to avoid the question whether Slavery is a sin, per se, But the Rev. Dr. Boyd of Virginia could not thus be induced to sign it. In his minority report he coincides with the majority in their exposition of the limits of the authority of the General Assemblywith the rather important addition, however, that the whole power of the Assembly is exhausted when it has ordered a delinquent Synod to consider a subject as to which the Assembly thinks it has not done its duty. The Synod is bound to obey this order to reconsider; but whether the reconsideration shall result in any action is, according to

Dr. Boyd, wholly left to the lower court. Dr. Boyd also concurs in the Detroit resolution on Slavery, so far as it implies, as he understands it to do (and he says the majority of the Committee agree with him in that interpretation of it), that slaveholding is not a sin in itself, but only becomes so in cases not included within the exceptions stated. But in his opinion those exceptions, including, as they do, cases where slaveholding is unavoidable by the laws of the State, the obligations of guardianship, or the demands of humanity" " will cover at least the vast majority of cases of slaveholding in the land." Admitting that slaveholding, when not within the range of these exceptions, may be an offense in the sight of God. Dr. Boyd denies, however, that the Assembly at Detroit had any right to designate it as a disciplinable offense, and that on two grounds.

In the first place, the Assembly has no authority to say what are disciplinable offenses and what are not. The Book of Discipline declares that "nothing ought to be considered as an offense which cannot be proved to be such from Scripture or from the regulation and practice of the Cherch "founded on Scripture." But what is or is not sanctioned or condemned by Scripture is to be determined, not by the variable opinions of Assemblice, Synods, and Presbyteries, but, so far as the Presbyterian Church is concerned, by the Confession of Faith, including the Lorger and Shorter Catechisms, and as those documents say nothing of the "affense" of slaveholding, there cannot be, so far as the Presbyterian Church is concerned, any such "offense" to be disciplined, no matter under what circumstances to slaves are held. That we may not be accused of misrepresentation, we insert the following paragraph from the minority

The undersigned, therefore, dissents from the action of the Assembly at Detroit, on the subject of slaveholding, and which is indersed by a majority of the Committee, because slaveholding is not alluded to the Committee, because staveholding is not added to in the Confession of Faith of the Presbyterian Church, and for this reason the relation itself between master and servant cannot be an offense, whatever may be the circumstances in which it exists in the sense in which that term is used in the Book of Discipline."

But though the authorities to which Dr. Boyd refers do not condemn slaveholding in terms, they do enumerate "oppression" as a violation of the eighth commandment; and he frankly admits that f slaveholding is oppression, then slaveholders might be disciplined for oppression, and the slavehelding given in proof to establish that charge. But though he admits that a slaveholder may be oppressive to his slaves, and might be disciplined for specific acts of oppression, just as a husband or father might be for specific acts of cruelty toward his wife or children, he yet holds that a church member can no more be disciplined for the mere act of slaveholding, whatever may be the circumstances under which he maintains that relation, than he can be for the mere act of being a husband or a father. He would not be understood as placing the relation of a slaveholder on an equal footing. in every respect," with the relation of a husband or a father; but so far as the discipline of the Presbyterian Church is concerned, he maintains that all these relations stand on precisely the same

He also takes this further objection to the Detroit resolution, that the Assembly has no right to declare, except judicially, and on a case regularly brought before it, what are and what are not disciplinable offenses; and that the Detroit resolution being an entirely extra-judicial procedure, is invalid on that score. The minority report admits that the Assembly has the right, it it thinks so, to hear testimony against slaveholding as a "sin against God;" but that must be the end of the matter, for neither the Assembly nor any of the inferior judicatories have any right to act to treat slaveholding as an offense, and to inflict discipline therefor. Upon either report the prospect does not appear very promising of any great reformation to be accomplished on the subject of slaveholding through the sgency of the General Assembly.

What is it that is burrying the country to the verge of civil war! Why do we listen, with anxious, painful interest for each day's telegraphic dispatch bringing tidings from Kansas ! and, having devoured it, listen again with deeper anxiety for the next, and the next? Why is it that the settlers of Lawrence are now in imminent peril of massacre and their homes of devastation '

Their enemies tell us that these people are rebels -against what? Are they trying to break away and escape from the Union! On the contrary, they are bumbly entreating to be admitted into the Union. Their memorial to this effect has been

twice submitted to the Senate, and as often kicked out by the Pro-Slavery majority on a frivolous pretext of irregularity and lack of due authentication Their Senators and Representatives have attended at the doors of either House, but have not been admitted to seats. The people of Kansas, and preeminently those of Lawrence, desire nothing else so much as to be admitted into our Federal Union, and made equal sharers in its responsibilities and blessings. They are careful, industrious, orderly, moral, law-abiding, God-fearing men, who ask only to be permitted to earn their bread by honest labor. and rear their children to habits of temperance and frugality, and in the ways of intelligence, virtue and peace.

Why, then, is there mustering of battalions from Missouri and Alabama, from South Carolina and Georgia, in the few Pro-Slavery villages of that spacious and lovely land? Why are peaceful travelers waylaid and arrested on their way up and down the Missouri! Why are cases of merchandise stopped and broken open on their arrival at the border towns? Why are Federal cannon and State muskets and rifles pushed into the hands of the invaders whose feet are swift to shed blood Why sits the New-England mother pale and agitated in her prairie cabin among her little band of children, fearing in every noise the death-shot of the absent husband and father, and fearing that the opening of the door may reveal to her his mangled, gory corpse? Who dees not know that it is Slavery, and

nothing but Slavery, which has brought all this herror upon Kansas-Slavery seeking to force itself upon her, first by gigantic fraud at the polls; next by the most infernal enactments through a bogus Legislature; and at last by butchery and arson in the settlers' homes? Twist it and varwish it as the apologists and accomplices of the giant crime of our age may seek to do, it still remains unquestionable that Slavery is the sole and absolute cause of all the trouble which has arisen in Kansas and all the calamity which now threatens her. It was Slavery which pushed over the Missourians in brigades to debauch and subvert all the Territorial Elections yet held in Kansas. It was Slavery which drove the upright judges of elections from the several polls, so as to allow the invadersto vote by platoons without taking the oath of residence. It was Slavery which pitched into the Kansas Legislature those pretended members whom Gov. Reeder had urseated as returned by manifest and unquestionable fraud, turning out at one stroke all the true members subsequently elected in their stead. It was Slavery which extended the laws of Missouri over Kansas, and denounced the penalties of felony and treason against any further resistance thereto, or even a discussion of the rightfulness of its pretensions. And it is Slavery which is now mustering its forces to "crush out" the last murmur of resistance to those ferocious and usurping enactments or wipe Lawrence and her inhabitants from off the face of the earth.

How much longer shall party sorcery and the ability of the Slave Power to make or mar the fortunes of "National" aspirants to the Presidency, seal men's understandings to a living consciousness of these facts ?

There should be certain characteristics of a large city, in this country. Philadelphia is now a large city, perhaps of some 600,000 inhabitantsone third the size of London. We ought, therefore, to look in such a place for the entire scope of mind and action not of an out-of the-way-and yet more, an illiterate, bigoted-village, but of a great city, affluent with light and liberty. But whether that exists or not, may be judged by the following extract from a letter written by an eminent citizen

of Philadelphia:

"You have sometimes commented with severity "You have sometimes commented with severity upon the absence of independence among our city papers; but how far independence is pessible in a little town like this, you may judge for yourself, after reading an account of an operation now in course of being performed here. The Whigs, as you know, had no ticket at the late election, and if they voted, they had only a choice between a Know Nothing ticket on the one hand, and a Buchanan one on the other. The former was made up exclusively from the lodges, and had upon it some names that were highly exceptionable, put forward as candidates for offices requiring both integrity and ability; whereas, on the latter, the both integrity and shility; whereas, on the latter, the Democrats had placed men much more entitled to the public confidence. In this state of things, The North American—rightly looking at the question as a purely local one, and not in any manner connected with general politics—recommended Whigs to take the best men, without regard to party, accompanying the recommendation with an examination of the claims of the candidates, not very favorable to the K. N's. In so doing, however, it gave offence to a certain portion of both integrity and ability; mendation with an examination of the chains of the candidates, not very favorable to the K. N's. In so doing, however, it gave offence to a certain portion of the Whig party that now desires the friends of Clay and Taylor to worship at the shrine of Fillmore and Donelson, and that, while proposing to strive for itself, is not disposed to permit any one else to do so. Some of them are, therefore, as I hear, engaged in a vigorous effort to coerce The North American into a change of policy, geing about from store to store to obtain signatures to an order to "stop my paper"—a sort of conspiracy that would seem to be quite worthy of men who, to use an expression of your own, would desire, "so to worship God as to give the Devil no solid ground of offense"—so to be Anti-Slavery as not to prevent any slavedriver from buying goods at his store. They have not, as I believe, succeeded to any extent, but in a community which tolerates at all any such display of 'little-townishness,' how can you expect independence !"

Our correspondent calls Philadelphia a little Our correspondent calls Philadelphia a little

town, but as it is one which stretches some five or six miles along the Delaware in an unbroken chain of houses, he must mean small in spirit and not in numbers. Conceive of the paltry temper of a squad going about trying to break down a newspaper because it differed from them on a question of the choice of men for local offices. Why, how can Philadelphia hold up her head with such wretched pettiness, even on a small scale? A great city needs, above all else, liberty of the press; and if a ournal, which ought to speak its mind freely, is muzzled at the instance of such conspirators against liberty, the city is little more than a slaveplantation, call it by what name you will. None but puny-minded person would so attempt to coerce newspaper, and a community which would submit to it is worthy of being scouted as a moral leper. The idea that a set of men may, without damage to their respectability, assume to coerce or destroy a journal with which they differ, is simply equivalent to the press-laws of Paris or Vienna. Is it to be so in Philadelphia? Is The North American to be injured or biased by such means?

There are a good many people in this world to whom it is a horror to be obliged to think, and a still greater horror to be obliged to act. Of this large and respectable class, The Commercial Adrertiser, of this city, may be taken as the representative and the organ. That journal rubs its hands together in a delicious chuckle of satisfaction at the centrast between itself at the present moment and almost all the rest of the world. Now that a President is to be nominated, and the policy of the country to be settled by the election that is to folow, for four years to come-a policy involving questions of the highest importance-everybody almost, is in a state of the greatest activity and malety. The Commercial Advertiser, on the con-

rary, like the Epicurean philosopher described by Lucretius, sits apart, elevated on the lefty and eternal rock of Straight Whiggery, above the vulgar tumult that rages below, its principles having been all cut and dried for it in the resolutions of sundry Whig caucuses held from ten to twenty years since, and its candidate nominated to its hand by the South Americans who controled the late Philadelphia Convention.

"What a blessed thing," exclaims The Commercial, almost out of breath at the sight of the tumult about it-" What a blessed thing just now "to be a Whig, and under no obligation to present "s candidate for the Presidency!" But while The Commercial that comfortably sips its old Straight-Whig Madeira, leaving the country and the Presidency to go to ruin, it does profess to feel some little touch of sympathy for its Whig friends who have gone into the Republican movement. It fears they are engaged in pursuit of "a "phantom that will ever evade their grasp." The 'phantom," as The Commercial esteems it, of which the Republicans are in pursuit is an honest and able administration of the Government for the equal benefit of the whole country. Such a pursuit, even if unsuccessful, is, in our opinion, far more creditable than tamely to resign the administration of affairs, as The Commercial would have us do, into the hands of whatever political gamester may happen to control the Cincinnati Convention.

The Legislature of Connecticut failed to elset a U. S. Senator yesterday, through a division beween the "American" and the "Republican" members. We deeply regret this, and think the Republicans" are making a mistake which endangers the State in the Presidential Election. When a majority of the Anti-Nebraska members of the Ohio Legislature last Winter nominated Senator Wade-who is a "Republican" and no "American"-the "Americans" generally and promptly came to his support and elected him on the first ballot, though some of them preferred another. Now that the tables are turned in Connecticut, we exhort our friends there to do likewise. They might probably by persistence force the "Americans" to drop Mr. Dixon and take up some one else; but that would cause a heartburning which it is their interest and duty to avoid. They are doing the work of Fillmore and Douglas at present, and gladdening the hearts of their bitterest enemies throughout the land. We pray you, friends, not to doom the champions of Free Kansas to see the name of Isaac Toucey standing at the head of the poll for a single day longer.

The waste of a day by both Houses of Congress, on no better pretext than the death of a Member whom not one-fourth of those voting to adjourn ever knew, is a very gross and mischievous humbug. Mr. Clay, among the last acts of his public life, spoke against it, and gave notice that he should resist it thereafter. But he is dead, while Humbug still flourishes in immortal youth.

Mr. Miller, the deceased Member of the House from Missouri, was, we believe, a worthy, honest man, who meant in all things to do right. But his death without having taken his seat in the present House, and without having ever seen half its Members, affords them no shadow of excuse for taking a day's pay for doing nothing. Assuming that he was in his day a faithful, industrious, useful Member, the true way to commemorate him was by increased diligence, not by idleness. Had the House resolved to do an extra good day's worksay, by passing the Homestead bill in honor of his memory, that would have been honoring it to some purpose.

FROM WASHINGTON.

CONGRESSIONAL PROCEEDINGS. From our Special Correspon

WASHINGTON, Wednesday, May 21, 1856. The House has of late adopted a new and ingenious mode of dealing with the railroad bills. It has steadily refused to allow them to be discussed until after they were passed. Then the discussion is allowed to proceed. Thus, Mr. Letcher has been making a speech to-day against the Iowa, Florida and Alabama, and Wisconsi grants, all of which have passed and have been signed by the President, or put beyond the control of the House by the favorite method of moving to reconsider and then tabling the motion, a proceeding to-day even applied to the title of the Alabama

There are very great advantages in this mode of treating public measures. Indeed the practice is not applied only to the discussion of them, but to their examination. The Railroad bills which have been rushed through Congress have not been printed, or we believe even seen by a large majority of the members. This is still better; a greater improvement of proceeding than even the prevention of discussion. The House in thus doing emulates the conduct of Sidney Smith, who said he never read a book he intend to review, because the doing so was so apt to prejudice his opinion. A majority of the members vote Yea on the measures offered by the Public Land Committee without asking to be enlightened beyond knowing their title, and the bills are carried high and dry as fast as the various sets of Yeas and Nays which they have alone to encounter in the way of opposition, can be called and answered to. It is an extraordinary fact that not one of these Railroad bills has been printed and laid upon Members' desks, or been opened for discussion from first to last. Though this has been a subject of general com-

plaint during the pendency of the measures, yet the House has at length had the magnanimity to do justice in the premises. To-day discussion was permitted on the Iowa and other bills which have been signed by the President. Mr. Letcher of Virginia took the floor and made an interesting and of course highly instructive speech upon those measures. The debate will go on now without obstruction. When it will be ended I do not pretend to know, but the reasons which existed against debating the bills during their pendency being removed, there seems no reason why discarsion should be repressed. If I had a seat in the House I would modestly suggest that about two days in the week be appropriated hereafter exclusively to discussing the various bills which have been or shall be put through under the Previous Question without time or opportunity being given for their examination or discussion.

But I would not venture to suggest any change of the policy adopted in the land bills. It seems to be so very absurd for the House Members to be obstructing the passage of measures by tediously debating them, or willfully suggesting amendment

A very animated and fervent meeting of the Bopublican Members of Congress was held last ered ing, at which the affairs of Kansas were delated with remarkable freedom and earnestness. Tha